## REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully spmitted,

May 12, 2004

Joseph T. Ony, Ph.D. Agent for Applicants

Registration Number 35,172

NEXSEN PRUET JACOBS & POLLARD, LLC

P.O. Box 10648

Greenville, SC 29603 Telephone: 864-370-2211 Facsimile: 864-282-1177